

Message Text

PAGE 01 TOKYO 05993 061049Z

51

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /092 W

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R 060900Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9935

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 5993

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KN CH KS

SUBJ: FONOFF VIEWS ON KOREAN DEVELOPMENTS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: A. PEKING 802; B. HONG KONG 4590

SUMMARY: CONCERNED OVER IMPLICATIONS FOR ROK OF INDOCHINESE DEVELOPMENT, FONOFF SEES KIM IL SUNG'S VISIT TO PEKING AS ATTEMPT TO ENLIST CHINESE SUPPORT FOR UNDERMINING ROK. JAPANESE DOUBT PEKING WOULD SUPPORT NORTH KOREAN ADVENTURISM BUT THINK PRC HAS AGREED TO MAINTAIN FIRM SUPPORT FOR DPRK POSITION ON UN QUESTION, AND TO BACK PYONGYANG'S EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE ROK INTERNATIONAL POSITION. IN ROK, FONOFF SUSPECTS CALLS FOR "UNITY" IN SEOUL, FOLLOWING KIM'S PEKING VISIT, MAY SERVE AS MEANS TO CRACK DOWN ON OPPOSITION POLITICS. ROK PREMIER KIM JONG PIL'S VISIT TO TOKYO THIS WEEK IS ALSO SEEN AS PART OF ROKG REACTION TO KIM IL SUNG'S JOURNEY TO PEKING. ALTHOUGH ROKG HAS NOT INFORMED GOJ PURPOSE

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 05993 061049Z

OF PREMIER KIM JONG PIL'S VISIT, FONOFF EXPECTS SECURITY CONCERN TO BE UPPERMOST IN KIM'S MIND. END SUMMARY.

1. FONOFF ASSESSMENT OF KIM IL SUNG VISIT TO PEKING DIFFERS

ONLY IN EMPHASIS FROM USLO'S AND CONGEN HONG KONG'S ANALYSIS (REFTELS). IN DISCUSSIONS WITH NE ASIA DIVDIR SEO AND DEP DIR NAITO, BOTH EXPRESSED BELIEF INITIATIVE CAME FROM PYONGYANG AND WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH INDOCHINESE DEVELOPMENTS. KIM ACHIEVED MUCH LESS THAN HIS MAXIMUM DEMANDS WHICH POSSIBLY INCLUDED PRC SUPPORT FOR MILITARY ACTIVITY AGAINST ROK. PEKING APPEARS TO HAVE GIVEN KIM ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL NOT DEVIATE FROM KIM'S HARD LINE ATTITUDE TOWARD THIRD COUNTRIES DEALING WITH ROK AND IN UN MATTERS. JAPANESE BELIEVE ONE RESULT OF KIM'S VISIT IS TO CLOSE EVEN TIGHTER THE DOOR TO CROSS RECOGNITION MANEUVER BY TOKYO AND WASHINGTON OF PYONGYANG AND BY PEKING AND MOSCOW OF SEOUL. ALTHOUGH BELIEVING THAT KIM ALSO SOUGHT ECONOMIC AID FROM PEKING, FONOFF THINKS MILITARY AND POLITICAL FACETS OF VISIT WERE EMPHASIZED IN DISCUSSIONS.

2. PRIMARY INTEREST OF JAPANESE IN KIM'S TRIP IS IMPACT VISIT MAY HAVE ON SOUTH KOREANS AND FONOFF IS INTRIGUED WITH MANNER ROK HAS PLAYED VISIT. SEO NOTED THAT WHILE ROK PRESS HAS EMPHASIZED HEIGHTENED THREAT FROM NK AS RESULT OF KIM'S VISIT, PRES PARK'S SPEECH WAS COUCHED IN TERMS TO REASSURE SOUTH KOREANS. SEO ADDED THAT KCIA AND SENIOR ROK MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE GIVEN JAPANESE YET ANOTHER ASSESSMENT AND ONE WHICH COINCIDES WITH GOJ FONOFF'S ANALYSIS. KCIA AND ROK OFFICERS ARE NOT EXCITED ABOUT RESULTS OF VISIT AND THEY TOLD GOJ THEY DO NOT BELIEVE THAT KIM VISIT HAS CHANGED MILITARY EQUATION IN KOREAN PENINSULA NOR IS THE THREAT AGGRAVATED.

3. WITH THESE VARIANT INTERPRETATIONS IN MIND, FONOFF FOCUSES ON DOMESTIC POLICIES ROKG MAY PURSUE IN COMING PERIOD. SEO WONDERS IF SEOUL MEDIA PLAY STRESSING THREAT TO ROK DOES NOT INDICATE THAT ROKG WILL USE CALL FOR "UNITY" IN FACE OF "THREAT" AS MEANS TO ALLAY OPPOSITION DEMANDS. SHOULD ROKG USE THIS TACTIC, SEO THINKS "SENSE OF UNITY" WOULD BE SHORTLIVED AND ROKG WOULD QUICKLY RETURN TO REPRESSIVE METHODS, IF INDEED THERE WERE EVEN ANY LESSENING
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TOKYO 05993 061049Z

OF SUCH METHODS.

4. FONOFF SEES VISIT TO TOKYO MAY 8-9 OF ROK PREMIER KIM JONG PIL AS ELEMENT OF ROKG REACTION TO KIM IL SUNG'S PEKING VISIT. FONOFF HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED BY ROKG PURPOSES OF VISIT. CALL ON PM MIKI WAS EASILY ARRANGED AND FONOFF IS INTERESTED IN DEGREE OF RAPPORT MIKI AND KIM MIGHT ATTAIN IN FIRST MEETING IN THEIR CURRENT CAPACITIES. FONOFF ASSUMES THAT SECURITY SITUATION IN WAKE OF INDOCHINESE DEVELOPMENTS ON KOREAN ISSUES WHICH NECESSITATES ANY CHANGE IN GOJ POLICIES.

5. SEO'S COMMENTS UNDERLINE GOJ'S SERIOUS AND PERHAPS

GROWING CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF INDOCHINA DEVELOPMENTS AND KIM IL SUNG DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES FOR SECURITY OF ROK. ALTHOUGH HIS STATEMENT THAT GOJ POLICY TOWARD ROK WOULD NOT CHANGE PRESUMABLY MEANS GOJ STILL WANTS SOME ACTION ON KIM DAE-JUNG CASE, HEIGHTENED CONCERN IN SEOUL AND TOKYO SHOULD IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE FOR PREMIER KIM'S VISIT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS, POLITICAL SITUATION, TERRITORIAL UNIFICATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO05993
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750158-0259
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505100/baaaafin.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971002
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR, CH, KN, KS, XE
To: STATE INFO HONG KONG
MOSCOW
PEKING
SEOUL
TAIPEI
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006